

STATE SENATOR DENNIS OLSHOVE

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STATE CAPITOL NEWS



Dear Constituent:

The first half of this year has been quite a challenge and, much like the headlines, it has been dominated by state budget concerns. We have achieved some success. A compromise was reached to balance the 2007 budget with a mix of cuts and governmental reforms. Late-night negotiations finally resulted in a business tax agreement to replace the outgoing Single Business Tax.

Despite this, we have only gone part of the way on a solution for a balanced budget and an economic turnaround. The Legislature now must finish its work on the 2008 budget so vital services can continue after October 1. The crisis is deepening with each passing day, and the college tuition rates that are skyrocketing across the state are just one byproduct of the Legislature's inaction. I have called for us to stay in Session until we get the budget done!

I will continue to fight for a balanced budget and the protection of education, health care, public safety, and other vital services that Michigan families, like yours, rely on. While the Senate docket has been dominated by budget-related items thus far, I am still working hard for the families and citizens of the 9th District on all the concerns that you face.

This newsletter will provide you with an update of what has been going on in Lansing and what I have been doing in the Capitol to help my constituents. As always, I will continue to be your voice in government in the coming year and will make sure that all of your concerns are heard loud and clear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Dennis Olshove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Dennis" on top and "Olshove" below it.

*Dennis Olshove
State Senator • 9th District*

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OLSHOVE FIGHTS FOR PROTECTION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

Michigan must take a step forward in protecting the financial interests of our young



men and women in the United States Armed Forces. Those serving in the Armed Forces sacrifice their own financial security to uphold the personal liberties and freedom this country was founded on. Therefore, to help those in the Armed Forces

alleviate their financial burdens, I introduced Senate Bill 454 on April 26, 2007.

Senate Bill 454 would establish the maximum amount that a payday lender could charge for loan fees for military personnel and their families as being half the amount allowed for civilian borrowers. This cut in loan fees would go a long way toward easing the financial burden of those in the Armed Forces. Senate Bill 454 is currently in the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee.

THE MBT: A BUSINESS TAX THAT WORKS FOR MICHIGAN BUSINESS

A new tax plan has risen from the ashes of the outgoing Single Business Tax.

It improves on its predecessor to benefit Michigan citizens *and* businesses by improving the state's business climate while still preserving funding for public programs. Balancing concerns for serving our current economy while cultivating the industries and jobs of the future, the new Michigan Business Tax (MBT) creates a fair business tax *that works for Michigan business*.

Signed into law by Governor Granholm on July 12, the MBT will end the economic uncertainty and apprehension in the business market that began when the Legislature voted to dismantle the SBT last year. More importantly, it will remain revenue-neutral and will not add to Michigan's budget deficit. The MBT ensures that businesses contribute a

reasonable yet fair amount for the state services they use and depend on.

The MBT will encourage job creation and make Michigan a more attractive and competitive business environment. This tax levels the playing field for all Michigan businesses so that the market rather than government picks the businesses that succeed. It is a win-win—for Michigan leaders, Michigan businesses, Michigan citizens and Michigan's economy.

The MBT will provide a tax cut for more than 7 out of 10 Michigan businesses. It is an improvement of the SBT because it will rely more on profit and will provide tax credits to companies that locate or create new jobs in Michigan. It provides tax cuts for small businesses and for Michigan's major manufacturers, the backbone of our economy, while

also encouraging research and development, entrepreneurial ventures, and job creation in Michigan to fuel the economy of the future. In addition, a significant cut in the personal property tax will help the state's largest employers and commercial businesses.

This tax is just what we need to put Michigan back in business by addressing some of the issues and concerns that were hurting Michigan businesses and providing tax credits to jumpstart the economy, while also protecting current economic development tools. Best of all, it rolls out a red carpet for businesses considering locating in our state and makes Michigan's economic climate competitive with any state in the nation.

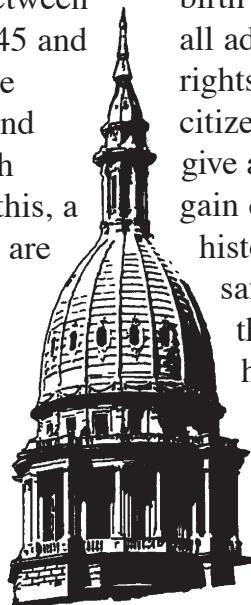
Simply put, the MBT is a business tax that works for Michigan business.

Free E-Mail Update Available

As a State Senator, I want to keep citizens informed of important issues. Therefore, I will be sending out a free monthly email called the "**Olshove Monthly Report**." If you would like to receive this update, just email me at sendolshove@senate.michigan.gov and ask to subscribe to the Olshove Monthly Report.

OLSHOVE AIMS TO CLOSE ADOPTION LOOPHOLE

A discrepancy in state law was recently brought to my attention. Adoptees born in the State of Michigan between the dates of May 28, 1945 and September 12, 1980 have been unable to request and obtain their original birth certificates. Because of this, a great deal of individuals are unable to obtain their health history and other important facts. As a result, I have introduced Senate Bill 592 which will allow these individuals access to important aspects of their history that have been denied for far too long.



Senate Bill 592 would open the window (May 28, 1945 to

September 12, 1980) so that adoptees, 21 years old and older, can obtain their original birth certificates. This affords all adoptees the same "civil rights" as any other Michigan citizen. In addition, the bill will give adoptees the opportunity to gain critical updated medical history that is needed to safeguard both their and their children's future health.

As far as the obligation of the biological parents in these matters, the options are threefold.

They would be allowed to sign a Contract Preference Form in which they can state:

- A)** They would like to be contacted
- B)** They want to be contacted only through a Confidential Intermediary
- C)** They do not wish to be contacted BUT have completed an updated medical history as a part of the contract

There has been a great deal of support expressed for this legislation from adoptees, birth parents, adoption agency workers, and attorneys specializing in family law. Furthermore, there would be minimal expense to the state as these forms are already in place and would require only minor revisions.

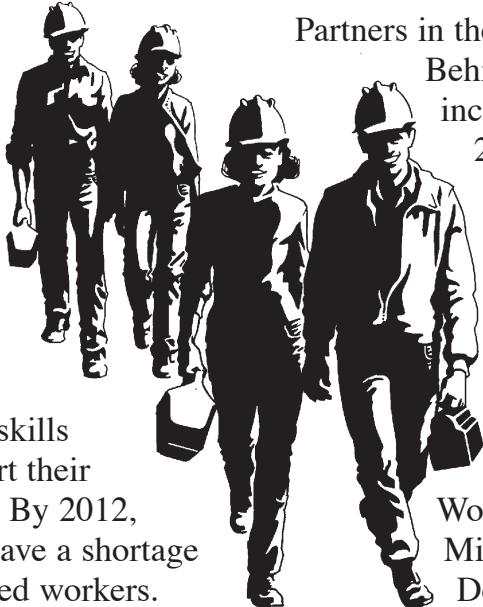
NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND PROGRAM

I strongly supported the launch of the No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) program, a worker development initiative that emphasizes linking training to existing jobs. In April, I supported an amendment, which was passed, to the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) budget that allowed for funding for many of the displaced worker programs included in NWLB.

The ability of displaced workers to compete in our changing economy, and the resulting prosperity of our communities, directly relates to the training we make available for workers. This crucial program will help bring jobs to our community, fill the needs of local companies, and give thousands of workers a second chance at success. The federal Workforce Investment Act provides funding for worker retraining

programs. NWLB allows workers to use that funding for higher education programs at colleges or universities, as well as training programs. The initiative also ensures that programs run by local school districts are also eligible.

To take part in NWLB, participants must earn a certification or degree needed in a high-demand occupation or gain the entrepreneurial skills necessary to start their own businesses. By 2012, Michigan will have a shortage of 334,000 skilled workers. Eligibility includes any person who is currently unemployed, who has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment, or whose family income is \$40,000 or less.



Participants must be at least 18 years old, must not have graduated from high school within the last two years, and must not be a full-time college student. They have three years beginning August 1, 2007 to sign up for the program.

Partners in the No Worker Left Behind initiative include Michigan's 28 community colleges, the Michigan Community Colleges Association, the Michigan Works! Association and 25 Michigan Works! Agencies, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, four-year colleges and universities, and licensed proprietary schools.



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CAPITOL VISITORS



Sen. Olshove joins fourth grade students from Princeton Elementary School and their teacher, Mrs. Schumaker, during their tour of the State Capitol.



Sen. Olshove joins fourth grade students from Princeton Elementary School and their teacher, Mrs. Ciegotura, during their tour of the State Capitol.



Westview Elementary School Honors Choir, director Mrs. Meyette and assistant Jessica Wilson visit with Sen. Olshove after their concert in the rotunda of the State Capitol.



Sen. Olshove with the Warren Mott High School Varsity Choir and their director, Mr. Chisholm, before their concert in the rotunda of the State Capitol.

MICHIGAN'S FUTURE IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

Senator Olshove and Senate Democrats have all signed on as co-sponsors to a package of renewable energy legislation. Senate Bill 385 would require 20 percent of the electricity Michigan uses to come from clean, renewable sources by the year 2020. These alternative energy sources include wind turbines, biomass from the agricultural industry, and solar panels.

Currently, 23 states have passed similar legislation, including other Great Lakes states such as Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. Also, energy-efficiency programs that aim to protect the environment and reduce energy costs for consumers have been enacted by 22 states. Unfortunately, Michigan has done neither. This package of bills, combined with strong energy-efficiency policies, has the potential to save

consumers over \$2 billion on their electricity bills, generate billions in new salaries and create thousands of jobs in the State of Michigan. As the automotive capital of the world, Michigan needs to be at the forefront of alternative and renewable fuels legislation. Senator Olshove fully supports this legislation because it provides incentive for new industries and investment in Michigan's economy.